

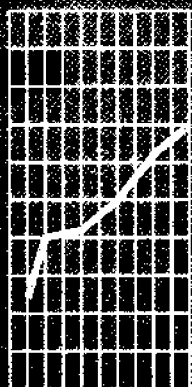


July 1997

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Business Indicators

Australian Capital Territory



NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

| <i>ISSUE</i> | <i>RELEASE DATE</i> |
|----------------|---------------------|
| August 1997 | 18 August 1997 |
| September 1997 | 22 September 1997 |

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

| | |
|------|--|
| ACT | Australian Capital Territory |
| n.a. | not available |
| n.p. | not available for publication |
| p | preliminary |
| * | Represents data with a standard error of greater than 25%. Caution should be exercised when using this data. |
| — | nil or rounded to zero |

INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Kingsley Green on Canberra (06) 207 0286 or any ABS State office.

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

Dalma Jacobs
Regional Director
Australian Capital Territory

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the June 1997 issue are: State accounts; housing finance; labour force; job vacancies; industrial disputes; building approvals and commencements; retail turnover; business expectations; and new motor vehicle registrations. A feature article on Career Experience in the ACT is included on pages 7 and 8.

NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| State accounts | Trend gross State product at average 1989-90 prices for the ACT decreased 0.2% in the March quarter 1997 to \$2,194 million. Following revisions, trend Gross State Product (GSP) has now experienced three consecutive quarters of decline, and no growth in the June quarter 1996. The annual change in GSP to March 1997 was a decline of just over 1.0%. The main contribution to the decline in GSP is the five consecutive months of negative growth in Public Sector Final Demand and an annual fall of nearly 15.0% since the March quarter 1996. The trend State Final Demand at average 1989-90 prices has also continued to fall, marking the fifth consecutive quarter of decline to \$2,791 million in the March quarter 1997, with an annual decrease of 6.6%. |
| Labour force | Trend employment in the ACT is at an all time high, although the increase in the growth is slowing. The number of persons employed has continued to increase for each of the last seven months from a trough of 152,200 persons in November 1996 to 159,700 persons in June 1997 (up 4.9%). The trend number of persons unemployed has fallen from 14,400 during the period August-October 1996 to 12,300 in June 1997, with the trend unemployment rate decreasing from 8.6% to 7.1%. The trend participation rate has increased for each of the past six months, rising 2.3 percentage points from 71.0% in December 1996 to 73.3% in June 1997. The ACT has continued to outperform the national labour market which showed decreased employment for the fourth consecutive month. |
| Industrial disputes | In March 1997, there were 129 working days lost per 1,000 employees in the ACT and 122 days lost per thousand in Australia. This represented a levelling for the ACT and a 4.7% decrease for Australia from the previous month's figure. |
| Housing finance | The trend number of dwelling units financed (includes refinancing) in the ACT during April 1997 decreased to 763 dwellings, a fall of 2.2%. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was \$81.1 million, a decrease of 1.8% on the previous month. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 23.1% of the total number of dwelling units financed in April 1997, which was down 1.3 percentage points on the previous month. |
| Housing and construction | The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT decreased by 6.3% to 149 dwelling units in May 1997. The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT has fallen for each of the last six months. Nationally the total number of dwelling units approved increased by |

0.1% in May 1997. The national trend in the number of dwelling units has increased for each of the last nine months.

The value of non-residential building approvals was \$30.1 million in May 1997; an increase of \$17 million (or 129.8%) from the previous month but a decrease of \$79.2 million (72.5%) from May 1996.

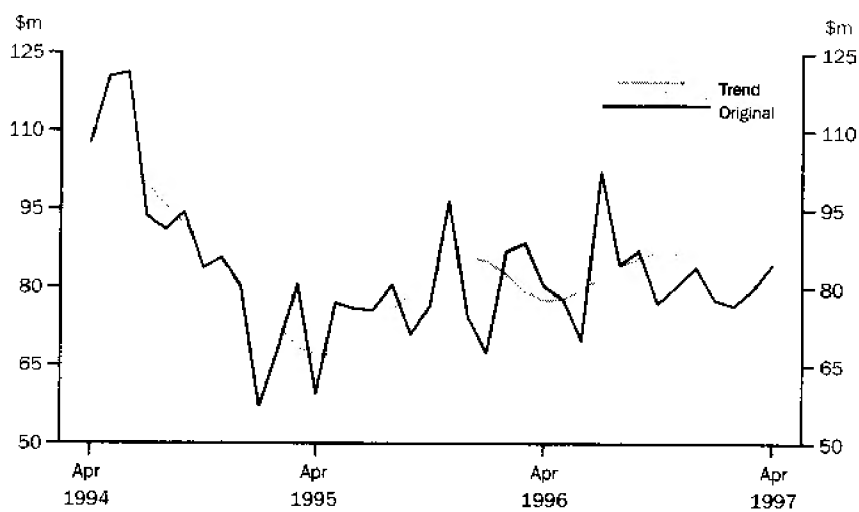
Retail turnover The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for May 1997 was \$192.6 million, down 0.4% on the previous month's figure of \$193.4 million. This was the sixth consecutive month in which a decrease was recorded. The national trend retail turnover experienced an increase of 0.4% on the previous month.

Business expectations Businesses in the ACT expect a short-term decrease of 1.7% in the sales of goods and services in the September quarter 1997. This follows on from an anticipated increase of 1.3% in the previous quarter. The expected national growth during the September quarter is 0.7%. In the medium term (June quarter 1997—June quarter 1998), growth of 2.0% is expected in the ACT, which is below the national expectation of 2.4%.

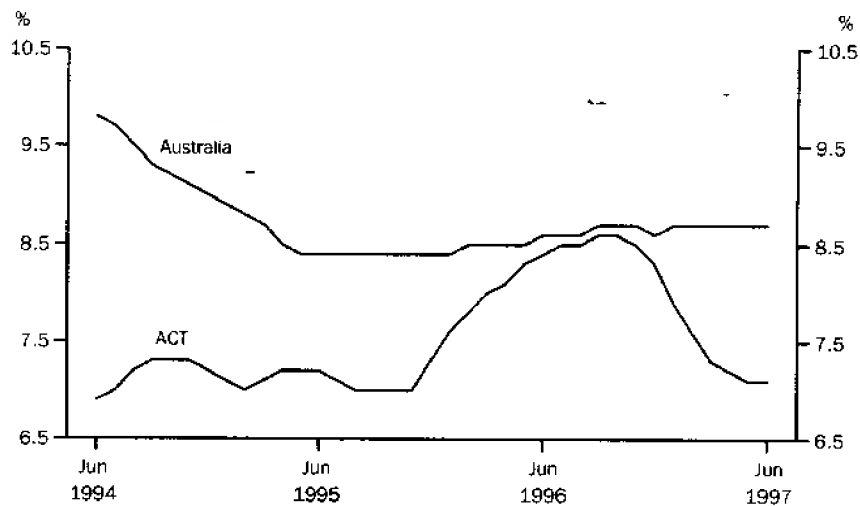
Motor vehicle registrations The trend estimate for new motor vehicle registrations for the ACT in May 1997 was 1,054, up 2.2% on the previous month, and up 6.5% on 12 months ago. The series has now recorded seven consecutive months of increase. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in May 1997 recorded a 0.4% decrease on the previous months figure.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

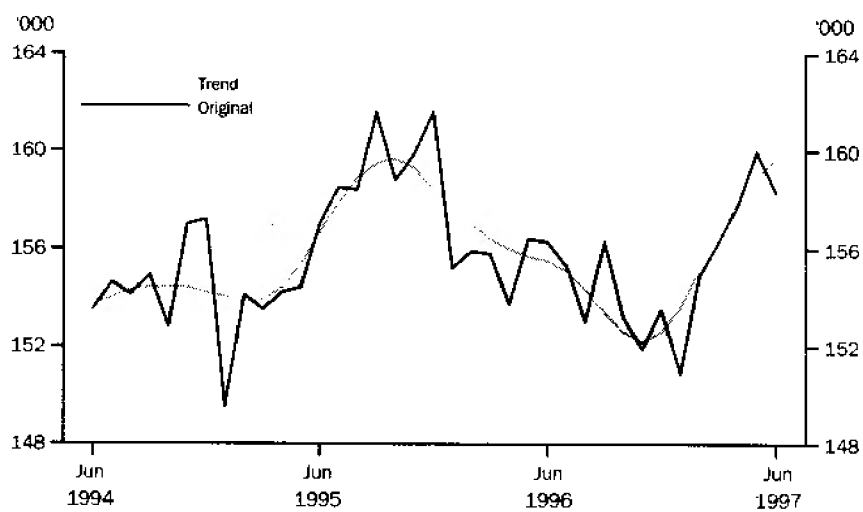
HOUSING FINANCE
COMMITMENTS



LABOUR FORCE — TREND
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

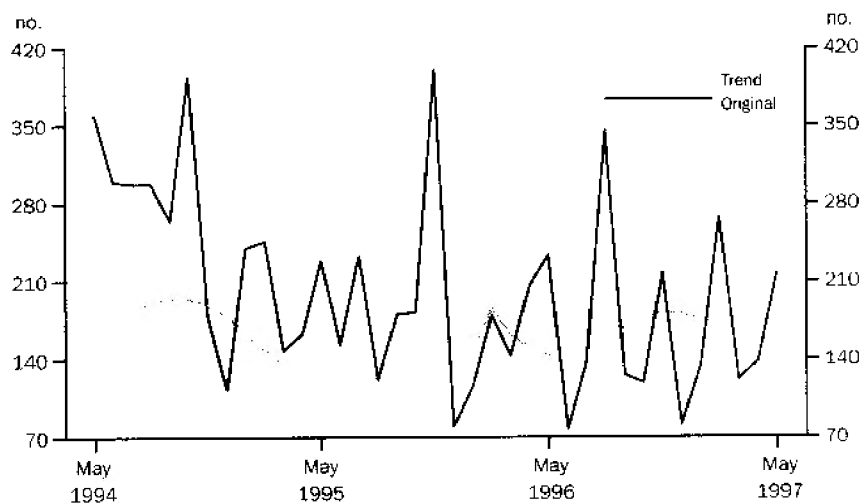


LABOUR FORCE —
EMPLOYMENT

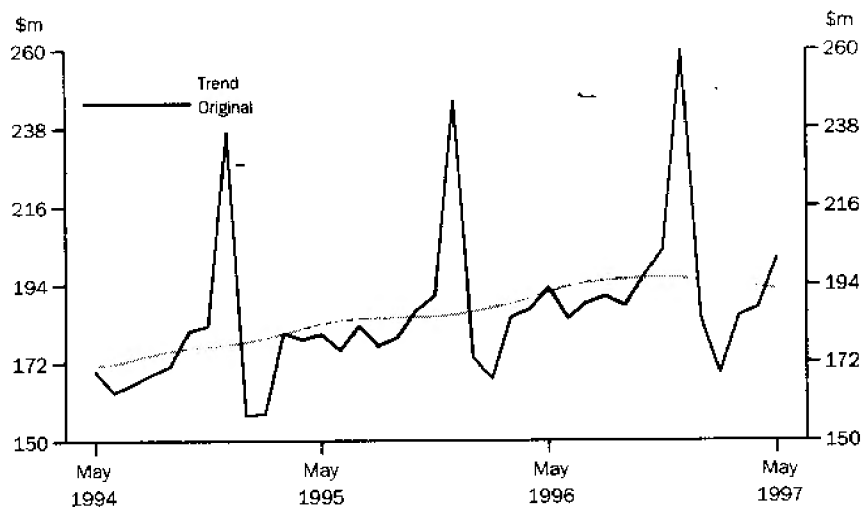


SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS *continued*

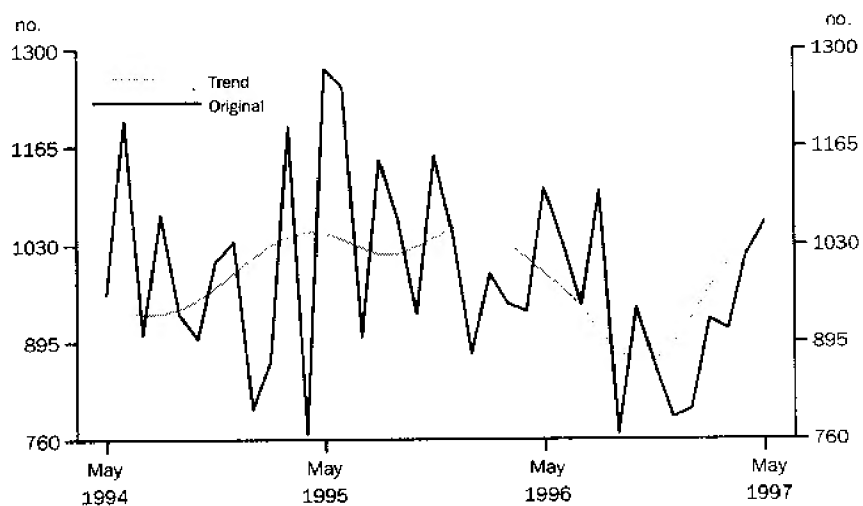
BUILDING APPROVAL —
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



RETAIL TURNOVER



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE
REGISTRATIONS



In November 1996 there were 132,379 employees in the ACT labour force. Of these persons 91,337 (69.0%) had been with their current employer for one year or more and had experienced some change in their work in the previous 12 months. This closely compares with the proportion of 69.8% nationally.

A further 10,290 (7.8%) employees had been with their current employer for one year or more and had no change in their work. The remaining 30,752 (23.2%) employees had been with their current employer for less than one year. The national comparisons are 5.3% and 24.8% respectively

The proportions of employees who had worked for their current employer for one year or more, reporting specific changes in their work in the 12 months to November 1996 were:

- new, different, or extra duties (47.0%), national comparison (33.9%);
- more responsibility (44.3%), national comparison (37.0%);
- change in hours (17.4%), national comparison (18.3%);
- transferred (14.5%), national comparison (7.7%);
- changed location of employment (11.7%), national comparison (9.4%);
- promoted (10.3%), national comparison (7.3%); and
- none of the above (10.1%), national comparison (7.1%).

Female employees were more likely to have new, different or extra duties (48.5%) and to have been transferred (15.6%) than male employees (46.0% and 13.7% respectively). Some 10.8% of males and 9.7% of female employees had been promoted, while 17.8% of males and 17.0% of female employees had a change in hours worked.

More than twice the proportion of full-time employees were transferred compared with part-time employees (15.9% compared with *7.8%) and full-time employees (10.9%) were more likely to be promoted than part-time employees (*7.6).

Full-time employees were more likely to have had new, different, or extra duties (50.6%) and more responsibility (47.4%) than part-time employees (29.5% and 29.3% respectively).

Part-time employees were more likely to change hours than have any other change (32.6%), compared to only 14.3% for full-time employees.

Being given more responsibility was the most common change reported in the younger groups (20-24 and 25-29 year age groups). The highest proportion of employees reporting they had more responsibility was recorded for the 25-29 years age group (51.5%). The lowest was for employees aged 55 years and over (23.0%).

Younger people were more likely to be promoted than older persons. An estimated 22.2% of persons aged 20-24 years had been promoted compared to 8.8% of employees aged 40-44 and 4.0% for those aged over 45 years. Those persons transferred, however, were more likely to be older. The highest proportion of persons transferred were in the 35-39 year age group (23.1%), although 22.2% of those aged 25-29 years were also transferred and 15.0% of employees aged 40-44 years.

In November 1996, 101,627 employees had been with their current employer for one year or more and 30,752 had been with their current employer less than one year.

Full-time employees (25.9%) were more likely to have worked with their current employer for more than 10 years than part-time workers (14.0%).

Some 34.5% of full-time employees and 31.9% of part-time employees had been with their current employer for 1-5 years. A higher proportion of part-time workers (32.4%) than full-time workers (15.0%) had been with their current employers less than one year.

Permanent employees (50.6%) were more likely to have been with their current employer for more than five years than casual employees (29.3%).

The majority (68.9%) of the 25,907 employees with children under 12 years of age reported that they had used some form of child-care. Of these employees, 43.7% used informal care only.

Employees with a youngest child aged under 3 years of age were more likely to use child-care (75.5%) than employees with a youngest child aged 3-5 years (72.3%).

Female employees were more likely to use child-care, either formal (24.1%), informal (44.6%) or both (31.3%), than males (30.6% formal, 43.1% informal and 26.3% both).

Almost three-quarters (69.0%) of employees received some kind of education or training in the 12 months to November 1996. Of these employees, 38.8% received more than one type of education and training.

The proportions of all employees reporting each type of education and training during the 12 months to November 1996 were:

- attended training courses(s) (46.8%);
- on-the-job training (44.9%);
- studied for an educational qualification (19.6%); and
- other work-related training (6.7%).

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BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, JUNE QUARTER 1997/MARCH QUARTER 1998, EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

| | ACT | Aust. |
|----------------------------|------|-------|
| <i>Period</i> | % | % |
| Short-term | | |
| Mar qtr 1996-Jun qtr 1996 | 1.8 | 2.3 |
| Jun qtr 1996-Sep qtr 1996 | 0.4 | 1.6 |
| Sep qtr 1996-Dec qtr 1996 | -0.3 | 1.6 |
| Dec qtr 1996-Mar qtr 1997 | -1.1 | 0.4 |
| Mar qtr 1997-Jun qtr 1997 | 1.3 | 1.6 |
| Jun qtr 1998-Sept qtr 1997 | -1.7 | 0.7 |
| Medium-term | | |
| Mar qtr 1996-Mar qtr 1997 | 2.3 | 4.1 |
| Jun qtr 1996-Jun qtr 1997 | 1.4 | 3.6 |
| Sep qtr 1996-Sep qtr 1997 | 1.5 | 3.1 |
| Dec qtr 1996-Dec qtr 1997 | 2.2 | 3.1 |
| Mar qtr 1997-Mar qtr 1998 | 1.7 | 2.9 |
| Jun qtr 1997-Jun qtr 1998 | 2.0 | 2.4 |

| Indicator | Unit | ACT | | | Aust. | | | |
|---|------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | % change from | | | % change from | | | |
| | | Latest figure | Previous period | Same period previous year | Latest figure | Previous period | Same period previous year | |
| POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR | | | | | | | | |
| POPULATION Dec qtr 96 | '000 | 308 500.0 | -0.1 | 1.0 | 18 426.9 | 0.3 | 1.3 | |
| Natural increase | no. | 781 | 4.6 | 19.0 | 31 085 | 11.6 | 1.1 | |
| Net migration | no. | -991 | 3 439.3 | 6.9 | 24 834 | -21.6 | -12.6 | |
| Total increase | no. | -210 | -129.2 | -667.6 | 55 919 | -6.1 | -5.5 | |
| LABOUR FORCE, Jun 97 | | | | | | | | |
| Original series | | | | | | | | |
| Employed | '000 | 158.3 | -1.1 | 1.3 | 8 418.1 | 0.3 | 0.8 | |
| Unemployed | '000 | 12.3 | 5.1 | -0.8 | 750.8 | -5.2 | 2.8 | |
| Unemployment rate(a) | % | 7.2 | 0.4 | -0.1 | 8.2 | -0.4 | 0.2 | |
| Participation rate(a) | % | 72.7 | -0.4 | 0.1 | 63.0 | -0.1 | -0.3 | |
| Long-term unemployed (May 97) | no. | 2 127 | -30.1 | -16.3 | 238 237 | -0.7 | 15.9 | |
| Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (May 97)(a) | — | 18.2 | -7.3 | -0.6 | 30.1 | 0.1 | 3.0 | |
| Trend series | | | | | | | | |
| Employed | '000 | 159.7 | 0.4 | 2.7 | 8 392.5 | -0.1 | 0.7 | |
| Unemployed | '000 | 12.3 | 0.8 | -13.4 | 796.5 | -0.4 | 1.9 | |
| Unemployment rate(a) | % | 7.1 | — | -1.3 | 8.7 | — | 0.1 | |
| Participation rate(a) | % | 73.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 63.1 | -0.1 | -0.4 | |
| JOB VACANCIES, May 97 | '000 | 1.0 | — | 25.0 | 58.1 | -7.2 | 8.4 | |
| INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Mar 97 | | | | | | | | |
| Working days lost | '000 | 0.0 | — | — | 47.1 | 167.6 | -46.1 | |
| Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Mar 97) | no. | 129.0 | — | 396.2 | 122.0 | -4.7 | 43.5 | |
| BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION | | | | | | | | |
| HOUSING FINANCE, Apr 97 | | | | | | | | |
| Secured commitments to individuals for | | | | | | | | |
| Original series | | | | | | | | |
| Construction of dwellings | \$m | 8.0 | 19.4 | 45.5 | 658.3 | 16.4 | 33.4 | |
| Purchase of new dwellings | \$m | 7.7 | -2.5 | -11.5 | 258.8 | 14.9 | 33.5 | |
| Purchase of established dwellings | \$m | 50.9 | 8.5 | 0.4 | 2 837.5 | 9.4 | 33.5 | |
| Refinancing | \$m | 17.7 | -2.7 | 14.9 | 991.4 | 16.8 | 48.9 | |
| Total housing commitments | \$m | 84.4 | 5.9 | 5.1 | 4 745.9 | 12.1 | 35.5 | |
| Seasonally adjusted series | | | | | | | | |
| Total housing commitments | \$m | 75.7 | -8.7 | -5.6 | 4 618.0 | 10.5 | 23.7 | |
| Trend series | | | | | | | | |
| Dwelling units financed | no. | 763 | -2.2 | -2.4 | 41 401 | 1.2 | 9.4 | |
| Total housing commitments | \$m | 81.1 | -1.8 | 4.6 | 4 435.7 | 1.5 | 20.3 | |
| BUILDING APPROVALS, May 97 | | | | | | | | |
| Original series | | | | | | | | |
| Dwelling units | no. | 216 | 56.5 | -7.3 | 13 438 | 8.3 | 10.7 | |
| Value of new residential | \$m | 24.2 | 45.8 | 0.4 | 1 450.0 | 16.5 | 13.8 | |
| Value of residential alterations and additions | \$m | 3.9 | -32.8 | -4.9 | 224.4 | 5.5 | 10.3 | |
| Value of non-residential | \$m | 30.1 | 129.8 | -72.5 | 913.0 | 10.7 | -18.5 | |
| Value of total building | \$m | 58.2 | 64.4 | -57.7 | 2 587.4 | 13.4 | -0.4 | |
| Trend series | | | | | | | | |
| Dwelling units | no. | 149 | -6.3 | 4.2 | 12 147 | 0.1 | 15.9 | |
| BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Dec qtr 96 | | | | | | | | |
| New houses | no. | 280 | -1.1 | -27.3 | 21 397 | 3.1 | -4.1 | |
| Value of houses commenced | \$m | 31.8 | -6.2 | -29.3 | 2 347.7 | 5.1 | 3.2 | |
| Value of non-residential building commenced | \$m | 111.1 | 1.6 | 91.2 | 3 156.8 | 11.2 | 26.3 | |
| Value of total commencements | \$m | 170.1 | 0.9 | 11.2 | 7 057.3 | 8.3 | 15.4 | |
| PRICE INDEXES | | | | | | | | |
| Established house price index, Mar qtr 97 | — | 124.3 | -1.8 | -2.1 | 115.3 | 0.9 | 2.8 | |

For footnotes see end of table.

| Indicator | Unit | ACT | | | Aust. | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| | | % change from | | | % change from | | |
| | | Latest figure | Previous period | Same period previous year | Latest figure | Previous period | Same period previous year |
| | | | | | | | |
| PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING | | | | | | | |
| CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Mar qtr 97 | | | | | | | |
| Food | (1989-90=100.0) | 122.0 | — | 2.3 | 120.2 | 0.7 | 3.7 |
| Housing | (1989-90=100.0) | 103.4 | -4.2 | -7.8 | 100.2 | -2.9 | -5.2 |
| Transportation | (1989-90=100.0) | 131.9 | 1.3 | 3.5 | 125.2 | 0.6 | 2.3 |
| All groups | (1989-90=100.0) | 121.4 | — | 0.5 | 120.5 | 0.2 | 1.3 |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Feb 97 | | | | | | | |
| Original series | | | | | | | |
| Males | \$ | 777.3 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 688.7 | 1.3 | 3.1 |
| Females | \$ | 576.5 | 2.7 | 9.6 | 457.8 | 2.4 | 4.2 |
| Persons | \$ | 679.3 | 2.3 | 6.2 | 581.6 | 2.0 | 3.4 |
| Trend series | | | | | | | |
| Males | \$ | 777.6 | 1.1 | 3.6 | 685.0 | 0.7 | 2.7 |
| Females | \$ | 574.0 | 1.9 | 9.4 | 454.2 | 0.9 | 4.1 |
| Persons | \$ | 675.3 | 1.7 | 6.1 | 577.0 | 0.8 | 3.1 |
| RETAIL TURNOVER, May 97 | | | | | | | |
| Original series | | | | | | | |
| Food retailing | \$m | 76.7 | 7.4 | -5.7 | 4 339.2 | 5.0 | 4.4 |
| Department stores | \$m | 24.5 | 18.9 | 3.8 | 995.1 | 17.2 | 3.4 |
| Hospitality and services | \$m | 30.8 | 3.0 | 4.8 | 1 725.0 | 1.4 | 0.8 |
| All other retailing | \$m | 69.5 | 6.1 | 18.4 | 3 445.0 | 5.2 | 4.2 |
| Total | \$m | 201.5 | 7.5 | 4.4 | 10 504.3 | 5.5 | 3.6 |
| Trend series | | | | | | | |
| Food retailing | '000 | 73.3 | -0.5 | -8.3 | 4 302.8 | 0.4 | 4.1 |
| Department stores | \$m | 22.5 | -2.2 | -4.7 | 959.3 | -0.9 | -0.8 |
| Hospitality and services | \$m | 29.0 | 0.7 | -1.4 | 1 769.6 | 0.6 | -0.1 |
| All other retailing | % | 67.8 | 0.4 | 15.1 | 3 475.8 | 0.6 | 3.7 |
| Total | '000 | 192.6 | -0.4 | 0.4 | 10 507.5 | 0.4 | 2.8 |
| TOURISM AND TRANSPORT | | | | | | | |
| HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Dec qtr 96 | | | | | | | |
| Original series | | | | | | | |
| Room nights | '000 | 221.0 | 11.8 | 2.3 | 9 551.6 | 2.7 | 2.8 |
| Takings at current prices | \$m | 20.7 | 13.7 | 7.8 | 946.1 | 5.5 | 8.3 |
| Takings at 1989-90 prices | \$m | 17.1 | 14.0 | 6.9 | 785.6 | 5.3 | 6.5 |
| Room occupancy rate (Mar qtr 97)(a) | % | 58.0 | -5.1 | -1.8 | 58.6 | -1.3 | -0.4 |
| Seasonally adjusted series | | | | | | | |
| Room nights | '000 | 211.1 | 7.5 | 3.1 | 9 334.3 | 3.3 | 2.7 |
| Takings at current prices | \$m | 20.1 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 912.3 | 4.1 | 8.5 |
| Takings at 1989-90 prices | \$m | 16.5 | 9.3 | 7.8 | 757.5 | 3.9 | 6.7 |
| Trend series | | | | | | | |
| NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, May 97 | | | | | | | |
| Motor vehicles | no. | 1 061 | 4.4 | -4.2 | 58 605 | 2.6 | 1.3 |
| Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles | no. | 1 042 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 55 355 | -0.7 | 5.7 |
| Trend motor vehicles | no. | 1 054 | 2.2 | 6.5 | 57 040 | -0.4 | 5.5 |

For footnotes see end of table.

| Indicator | Unit | Latest figure | ACT | | Aust. | | |
|---|------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | % change from | | % change from | | |
| | | | Previous period | Same period previous year | Latest figure | Previous period | Same period previous year |
| AGGREGATE INDICATORS | | | | | | | |
| STATE ACCOUNTS, Mar qtr 96(b) | | | | | | | |
| Original series | | | | | | | |
| Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices | \$m | 2 063 | -11.8 | -1.2 | 107 918 | -9.7 | 2.4 |
| Gross State product at current prices | \$m | 2 554 | -12.0 | 2.0 | 124 332 | -8.7 | 1.0 |
| State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices | \$m | 2 639 | -9.3 | -7.2 | 104 913 | 8.1 | 3.3 |
| Private final consumption expenditure | \$m | 1 378 | -10.1 | 4.5 | 75 903 | -7.6 | 3.6 |
| Private gross fixed capital expenditure | \$m | 169 | -23.2 | -2.9 | 19 270 | -13.0 | 7.5 |
| Trend series | | | | | | | |
| Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices | \$m | 2 194 | -0.2 | -1.1 | 112 956 | 1.1 | 3.6 |
| Gross State product at current prices | \$m | 2 728 | -0.4 | 2.9 | 129 156 | 1.2 | 4.8 |
| State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices | \$m | 2 791 | -0.6 | -6.6 | 110 912 | 1.1 | 3.6 |
| Private final consumption expenditure | \$m | 1 468 | 1.2 | 4.9 | 79 120 | 0.9 | 3.8 |
| Private gross fixed capital expenditure | \$m | 196 | -1.5 | -3.0 | 21 206 | 1.1 | 7.0 |

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

(b) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

Source: ABS Catalogue nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

| Indicator | Unit | Latest period | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
|---|------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|-------|----------|
| POPULATION | '000 | Dec qtr 96 | 6 240.9 | 4 581.6 | 3 374.3 | 1 476.8 | 1 782.7 | 474.2 | 184.9 | 308.5 | 18 426.9 |
| LABOUR FORCE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employed persons (trend) | '000 | Jun 97 | 2 798.9 | 2 093.7 | 1 554.3 | 663.0 | 848.9 | 192.5 | 85.8 | 159.7 | 8 392.5 |
| Unemployment rate (trend) | % | Jun 97 | 8.0 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.7 | 7.1 | 10.8 | 6.5 | 7.1 | 8.7 |
| STATE ACCOUNTS(a) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend) | \$m | Mar qtr 97 | 38 259 | 29 439 | 18 353 | 7 713 | 12 919 | 2 261 | 1 190 | 2 194 | 112 956 |
| Gross State product at current prices (trend) | \$m | Mar qtr 97 | 45 035 | 33 637 | 20 715 | 9 032 | 13 956 | 2 703 | 1 306 | 2 728 | 129 156 |
| BUILDING APPROVALS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dwelling units approved | no. | May 97 | 5 242 | 2 487 | 3 014 | 620 | 1 576 | 147 | 136 | 216 | 13 438 |
| Dwelling units approved (trend) | no. | May 97 | 4 233 | 2 610 | 2 832 | 621 | 1 453 | 157 | 155 | 149 | 12 147 |
| Value of non-residential building approved | \$m | May 97 | 260.5 | 168.3 | 214.7 | 64.7 | 146.4 | 18.1 | 10.1 | 30.1 | 913.0 |
| Value of all buildings approved | \$m | May 97 | 971.3 | 506.4 | 544.2 | 127.3 | 318.9 | 33.6 | 27.7 | 58.2 | 2 587.4 |
| ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Value of engineering construction work done | \$m | Dec qtr 96 | 1 209.0 | 564.7 | 907.4 | 186.1 | 750.9 | 58.1 | 54.4 | 31.8 | 3 762.3 |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Full-time adult ordinary time (trend) | \$ | Feb 97 | 720.7 | 687.5 | 655.2 | 647.2 | 690.2 | 659.8 | 700.7 | 797.6 | 692.9 |
| RETAIL TRADE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retail turnover (trend) | \$m | May 97 | 3 687.2 | 2 483.5 | 1 939.2 | 772.1 | 1 069.1 | 252.9 | 111.0 | 192.6 | 10 507.5 |
| HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Room nights occupied (trend) | '000 | Dec qtr 96 | 3,129.9 | 1 492.9 | 2 454.6 | 523.0 | 840.7 | 263.1 | 307.9 | 207.2 | 9 219.1 |
| Room occupancy rate (original) | % | Mar qtr 97 | 60.9 | 59.8 | 57.3 | 55.4 | 57.1 | 62.9 | 46.4 | 58.0 | 58.6 |
| NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trend | no. | May 97 | 19 608 | 14 126 | 10 483 | 3 821 | 6 001 | 1 207 | 740 | 1 054 | 57 040 |

| | Unit | Latest period | Syd. | Melb. | Bris. | Adel. | Perth | Hob. | Dar. | Canb. | Aust. |
|--|---------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| CONSUMER PRICE INDEX | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food | (b) | Mar qtr 97 | 121.1 | 118.8 | 119.8 | 121.2 | 121.2 | 120.7 | 120.3 | 122.0 | 120.2 |
| Housing | (b) | Mar qtr 97 | 104.9 | 93.5 | 106.4 | 97.5 | 94.8 | 101.9 | 117.8 | 103.4 | 100.2 |
| Transportation | (b) | Mar qtr 97 | 125.9 | 125.1 | 124.4 | 125.6 | 122.9 | 122.8 | 122.7 | 131.9 | 125.2 |
| All Groups | (b) | Mar qtr 97 | 120.6 | 120.1 | 121.5 | 122.6 | 118.2 | 121.9 | 121.6 | 121.4 | 120.5 |
| Average retail prices (cents) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Milk, carton, supermarket sales | 1 litre | Mar qtr 97 | 115 | 130 | 116 | 116 | 127 | 125 | 117 | 112 | n.a. |
| Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales | 680 g | Mar qtr 97 | 201 | 193 | 194 | 153 | 177 | 175 | 194 | 193 | n.a. |
| Beef, rump steak | 1 kg | Mar qtr 97 | 1202 | 1079 | 1053 | 1157 | 1094 | 1051 | 1272 | 1071 | n.a. |
| Chicken, frozen | 1 kg | Mar qtr 97 | 361 | 379 | 343 | 351 | 357 | 393 | 416 | 362 | n.a. |
| Potatoes | 1 kg | Mar qtr 97 | 105 | 115 | 93 | 78 | 119 | 89 | 112 | 98 | n.a. |
| Coffee, instant (jar) | 150 g | Mar qtr 97 | 552 | 533 | 546 | 500 | 561 | 573 | 538 | 559 | n.a. |
| Scotch nip, public bar | 30 ml | Mar qtr 97 | 318 | 285 | 252 | 345 | 340 | 247 | 315 | 287 | n.a. |
| Private motoring petrol | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leaded | 1 litre | Mar qtr 97 | 77.1 | 75.2 | 68.2 | 77.5 | 77.4 | 80 | 82 | 80.3 | n.a. |
| Unleaded | 1 litre | Mar qtr 97 | 74.9 | 73 | 66 | 75.2 | 75.2 | 77.9 | 80 | 78.1 | n.a. |

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0).

(b) Base year: 1989-90=100.0.

| Indicator | Latest period | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
|---|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| POPULATION | Dec qtr 96 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.5 | -0.1 | 0.5 | -0.1 | 0.3 |
| LABOUR FORCE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employed persons (trend) | Jun 97 | -0.2 | — | 0.2 | — | -0.1 | -0.5 | 0.9 | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| Unemployment rate (trend) | Jun 97 | -0.1 | 0.1 | -0.2 | — | -0.1 | — | 0.1 | — | — |
| STATE ACCOUNTS(a) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend) | Mar qtr 97 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 1.0 | — | 0.2 | 1.1 |
| Gross State product at current prices (trend) | Mar qtr 97 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 1.7 | 1.1 | -0.1 | -0.4 | 1.2 |
| BUILDING APPROVALS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dwelling units approved | May 97 | 22.7 | -2.9 | 9.7 | -1.3 | -3.1 | -25.0 | -41.9 | 56.5 | 8.3 |
| Dwelling units approved (trend) | May 97 | 0.8 | -0.1 | -0.8 | 6.0 | 2.8 | — | -1.9 | -6.3 | 0.1 |
| Value of non-residential building approved | May 97 | -15.2 | -29.4 | 75.3 | 65.1 | 85.8 | 229.1 | -49.2 | 129.8 | 10.7 |
| Value of all buildings approved | May 97 | 14.6 | -10.6 | 34.6 | 23.6 | 25.2 | 31.8 | -39.4 | 64.4 | 13.4 |
| ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION | | | | | | | | | | |
| Value of engineering construction work done | Dec qtr 96 | -7.0 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 23.2 | -4.5 | 14.6 | -19.5 | -11.9 | -1.9 |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Full-time adult ordinary time (trend) | Feb 97 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| RETAIL TRADE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retail turnover (trend) | May 97 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.2 | -0.4 | 0.4 |
| HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION | | | | | | | | | | |
| Room nights occupied (trend) | Dec qtr 96 | 0.1 | -0.4 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.3 | 3.6 | -0.6 | 0.5 |
| Room occupancy rate (original) | Mar qtr 97 | — | 3.8 | -5.4 | 0.5 | -3.2 | -8.1 | -12.1 | -5.1 | -1.3 |
| NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trend | May 97 | -0.4 | -0.8 | -0.8 | -0.5 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 2.2 | -0.4 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Latest period | Syd. | Melb. | Bris. | Adel. | Perth | Hob. | Dar. | Canb. | Aust. |
| CONSUMER PRICE INDEX | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food | Mar qtr 97 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| Housing | Mar qtr 97 | 2.6 | -3.3 | -2.9 | -3.0 | -3.4 | -2.8 | 2.5 | -4.2 | -2.9 |
| Transportation | Mar qtr 97 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 0.6 |
| All Groups | Mar qtr 97 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.6 | — | -0.2 | 0.5 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Average retail prices (cents) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Milk, carton, supermarket sales | Mar qtr 97 | — | 3.2 | 0.9 | — | 1.6 | 4.2 | 0.9 | 0.0 | n.a. |
| Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales | Mar qtr 97 | -1.0 | -4.5 | 4.3 | -2.5 | 1.7 | 2.9 | — | 0.5 | n.a. |
| Beef, rump steak | Mar qtr 97 | 1.4 | -0.2 | 1.2 | 9.0 | 4.1 | -3.4 | 2.8 | 4.8 | n.a. |
| Chicken, frozen | Mar qtr 97 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 4.3 | -6.4 | 5.6 | — | 16.9 | 9.7 | n.a. |
| Potatoes | Mar qtr 97 | 8.2 | 12.7 | 13.4 | 6.8 | -4.0 | 2.3 | 7.7 | 6.5 | n.a. |
| Coffee, instant (jar) | Mar qtr 97 | -4.0 | -5.3 | -3.0 | -2.5 | 0.4 | -9.3 | -7.1 | 1.8 | n.a. |
| Scotch nip, public bar | Mar qtr 97 | 0.3 | — | — | 0.6 | 2.1 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 4.4 | n.a. |
| Private motoring petrol | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leaded | Mar qtr 97 | 2.0 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 3.2 | n.a. |
| Unleaded | Mar qtr 97 | 2.0 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 3.3 | n.a. |

* State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0).

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